

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 25%

Clear with periodic clouds

Sensex 72,304 | Nifty 21,951 | Gold 62,296 | Silver 69,119 | Dollar 82.90 | Euro 89.72 | GBP 104.81



Emergency Response Support System - 112 - received 1,07,305 distress calls of children in 3 years from across Karnataka **SOS, NO KIDDING!**

1,526 calls against harassment, 2,506 of assault/exploitation recorded

MARGARET WEIR/UNSPLASH

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If you take into account the number of distress phone calls received by the Emergency Response Support System - 112, it seems the women and child development department has to pull up its socks for the welfare of vulnerable children across the state.

Replying to a query of MLC Madhu G Madegowda in the legislative council, Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar stated that the ERSS has received 1,07,305 distress calls from children in three years.

Among the 1,07,305 phone calls, 141 phone calls were seeking medical treatment, 852 phone calls seeking shelter, 223 phone calls for rehabilitation, 128 phone calls complaining about abuse, 1,526 against harassment, 2,506 against assault and exploitation. The ERSS recorded 1,01,729 phone calls from children pertaining to other issues.

The reply from the minister did not have any data on the measures taken by the women and child development department to mitigate the woes of vulnerable children. It only indicated the facilities available for rehabilitation of orphans. The child rights activists want the government to take measures to ensure protection and shelter for vulnerable



Govt must increase budget for protection of children if child line receives more than 30,000 calls per year

— Nagasimha G Rao, director, Child Rights Trust

children across the state.

Appreciating the MLC for raising the children's issue in the legislative council, Vasudeva Sharma NV of Child Rights Trust said the number of calls received

at the child line 1098 in the last three years can be considered and the MLC who has asked the question needs to be appreciated.

"But the last question on the child line is not complete. He

just inquired about the number of calls received. Probably he should have asked about the FIRs filed and the action taken on these calls. The minister could

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

'Trash test dummies, are we?'

Fire at quarry-turned-dump site raises alarm amongst area residents



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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A fire at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) dump yard at Hosur Bande near Kannuru has set panic among residents of the locality.

Local residents said while a team of BBMP officials and the fire brigade put out the fire the next day, the cloud of smoke from the garbage pile continued to blanket the locality and nearby areas.

Adding to the stench from the dump yard, smoke billowing out from the garbage pile has made the situation worse for the residents.

"The fire started on Saturday and although it was put out on Sunday, there is still a lot of smoke. Nearly 200 families are living very close to the quarry being used as a dump yard and they are all troubled," said a resident.

According to the locals, the dump yard nearly as high as a two-storeyed building is hardly a few metres away from the locality and there is a stench lingering in the air all the time.

"Multiple BBMP trucks dump garbage at the quarry every day; the garbage pile is growing tall with each passing day. Only a year ago the quarry was a clean waterbody, which is now a source of pollution

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

2 THINGS TO DO



01 All that jazz

Catch a jazz performance by The Dam Jawn, a quintet showcasing a harmonious fusion of international talent. Hailing from Barcelona, Stuttgart, and the Netherlands, The Dam Jawn's unique sound is a testament to their shared musical exploration in the United States, guided by the legendary saxophonist Dick Oatts. **Where:** Windmills; **When:** March 1 & 2; 9.30 pm onwards

02 Child's play

Tulika books, the children's publisher, is coming to town with a day's fun-filled programme. It starts with a treasure hunt for children at 1 pm, followed by an animation workshop by illustrator Priyanka Gupta at 2 pm. At 3 pm, beloved children's author Menaka Raman will launch her book titled "How Do We Name This Dog", after which storyteller Vikram Sridhar will regale the kids with even more activities and stories. **Where:** Atta Galatta; **When:** March 2, 1 pm



Knee problems? Dial in to BM phone-in

Dr. Rajashekhar KT, a distinguished Orthopaedics & Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon, is offering a unique opportunity for individuals seeking solutions to knee-related problems. In a special phone-in programme scheduled for March 1, 2024, from 12:30 pm to 01:30 pm, Dr. Rajashekhar will delve into the latest advancements in joint replacement surgery. Callers can get their doubts related to fast-track and ultra-fast-track knee replacement procedures addressed, alongside discussions on fast-track hip replacements and the recent innovation of robotic knee replacement surgery. Moreover, Dr. Rajashekhar will address crucial aspects of post-operative care following knee replacement surgery. So, don't miss to call 080-4087766. — BMB



For the love of science

School children at the stalls conducting live science demonstrations, to celebrate National Science Day at Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Can step to end period poverty be greener?

BM talks to experts who say transition to eco-friendly options from sanitary napkins can be done after awareness sessions, discussions

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The state government has relaunched the Shuchi scheme under which adolescent girls would be provided with sanitary napkins. "Through this scheme, we aim to distribute free sanitary napkins to all adolescent girls in the state. Our vision is to end period poverty in Karnataka and empower girls," said Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The scheme was brought to a halt in the past three years due to varying reasons. The scheme is expected to benefit over 19 lakh girl students studying in Classes 6 to 12. In September last year, the government undertook distribution of menstrual cups under the Shuchi - "Nanna Maithri" menstrual cup project. As many as 15,000 beneficiaries had been identified (studying in 1st year and 2nd year PUC) to promote good menstrual hygiene practices.

"Menstrual cups and pads differ vastly in form and use. Cups are reusable silicone inserts worn internally that collect blood, while pads are disposable, absorbent materials worn externally. This makes cups more eco-friendly and cost-effective in the long run. However, some school girls might require guidance for comfortable and hygienic insertion and removal, especially younger ones," said Dr Chandrika Anand,



Scheme is expected to benefit over 19 lakh girl students

Consultant Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fortis Hospital, Nagabhavi. With menstrual cups being cost-effective and eco-friendly, many have questioned why the government has not made a switch to menstrual cups.

Shanthi Tummala, a sustainability expert, told Bangalore Mirror the government should have considered giving the girls with the option of choosing cloth pads. The pads provided under the Shuchi scheme are single-use only, whereas cloth pads are reusable. On the other hand, Shanthi said the transition from pads to menstrual cups is a difficult task as they are of-

ten victims of misinformation. While many fear the act of insertion, Shanthi noted that mothers too are apprehensive about their daughters using menstrual cups as myths around breaking of hymen are prevalent. "Girls should be able to make a choice of disposable pads or reusable pads and between menstrual cups after they are provided with all the necessary awareness. They must be told that the Shuchi pads are not entirely natural while simultaneously being informed about the disadvantages of cloth pads such as the difficulty of washing at certain instances," she said. "When we calculate the costs,

Shuchi pads are very cheap but they are single-use. For reusable pads, initially, the budget will go up but they can be used for two to three years," she explained.

"Common myths on the adoption of cups encompass concerns about losing virginity, discomfort during insertion, issues of hygiene, size of the cups and apprehension about cups being lost inside the body (despite

Girls should be able to make a choice of disposable or reusable pads and of menstrual cups after they are made aware

— Shanthi Tummala, sustainability expert

the cervix serving as a natural barrier). These misconceptions suggest that they are exclusively suitable for women who are married and have given birth, and beliefs pertaining to messiness," said Dr Priya SP Patil, Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist - Altius hospital, Rajajinagar.

She added that once girls are taught the correct way of using the cups, its comfort and easy maintenance will make them never want to go back to pads.

"It's important to remember that the choice of menstrual product is individual and should be based on comfort, hygiene, and personal preference," said Dr Chandrika.

What women don't want

As data reveals spike in cases of crimes against women, particularly of molestation, police officials attribute rise to ease of reporting

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In a concerning revelation, data presented in a Legislative Council answer by the Minister for Bengaluru showcased a worrying surge in crimes against women in the city. From 2021 to 2023, the number of reported cases under various categories of crime saw a troubling escalation, painting a grim picture of safety for women in the region.

One of the most alarming spikes was observed in cases of molestation (354 IPC), which surged from 573 in 2021 to a staggering 1,135 in 2023, marking a distressing increase of 98.1 percent. Similarly, instances of rape (376 IPC) saw a significant uptick, with reported cases rising



from 116 in 2021 to 176 in 2023, representing a notable increase of 51.7 percent. Notably, 2022 alone witnessed 731 cases of molestation and 152 cases of rape, indicating a disturbing trend of violence against women.

Moreover, the data revealed a

surge in cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, with reported instances escalating from 735 in 2021 to 1007 in 2023, indicating a concerning rise of 37.2 percent. Additionally, cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives witnessed an increase, with the city recording 580 cases in

“Earlier people were hesitant to approach police in matters of molestation or dowry but now it is easy to register complaints” —Police official

2022, rising to 696 in 2023.

The situation is further exacerbated with immoral trafficking, as reported cases rose from 155 in 2022 to 161 in 2023.

A senior police officer told BM that the increase in crime when it comes to government data can be attributed to more FIRs being filed.

“Increasing the registration of FIRs and offering free registration has led to more cases coming to light. Earlier people were hesitant to approach police in matters of dowry or molestation but now the system has made the process sensitive and it is easy for people to come and register complaints. The city police has been successful in establishing women stations across all divisions and deploying counselors in shifts, which has also led to a more citizen-friendly policing,” said the officer.

He added that fostering awareness of laws is a pivotal step towards addressing women-related issues comprehensively.

Matrimony con: Man nabbed

A man has been apprehended by the Bengaluru Railway Police for defrauding more than 250 women he met on matrimonial websites and social media platforms. The culprit has been identified as Narish Pujari Goswami (45), who hails from Rajasthan but has been living in Bengaluru for the past two decades. Goswami, allegedly using fake profiles and would pose as a customs official or a software engineer, making widows and divorcees his targets. He would engage them in late-night conversations to gain their trust before persuading them and their families to part with money.

The investigation was prompted by a complaint filed by a victim from Coimbatore. According to authorities, Goswami employed various tactics, including using pre-activated SIM cards and promising to book train tickets for relatives, to swindle money from his victims. His deceit extended across multiple states, with victims reported from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh.

In one instance, he duped the parents of a Coimbatore victim by soliciting Rs 10,000 from them under the pretext of reserving train tickets for his relatives, only to abscond from the railway station. The railway police have apprehended Goswami, said SD Sharanappa, DIGP Railways, Bengaluru. —BMB



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Her Excellency Mama Rachel Ruto, EGH
First Lady of the Republic of Kenya (2022)

Dr. Dansa KOUROUMA
President, National Transition Council of Guinea, Guinea (2019)

Professor Muhammad Yunus
(Nobel Laureate) Founder, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh (2018)

His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama (2017)
Nobel Laureate, 2005 and Spiritual Leader

Ms. Ashley Judd,
Hollywood Actor, Activist & Global Goodwill Ambassador, UNFPA (2016)

His Excellency Dr Alejandro Toledo,
Former President of Peru (2015)

Ms. Anne F. Stenhammer
Former Regional Programme Director, UN Women, South Asia Regional Office (2014)



Mr. Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Co-Founder & former CEO of Microsoft receiving the prestigious **KISS Humanitarian Award 2023** from Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

AWARDEES ARE FROM

5 Continents **13** Countries

2 Nobel Laureates among the awardees

Madam Albina Du Boisrouvray
Founder, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB International), Switzerland (2013)

His Excellency Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley
Hon'ble Prime Minister, The Royal Government of Bhutan (2012)

Rt Hon. Lord Nicholas Addison Phillips
President (Chief Justice) of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (2011)

Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth
Eminent Social Worker & His Excellency the President of Mauritius (2010)

Dr. Ham Kee-Sun
Eminent Educationist & Physician and Hon'ble President & Founder, Hanseo University, South Korea (2009)

Ms. Edna Bomo Molewa
Noted Social Worker & Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Social Development, South Africa National Assembly, South Africa (2008)

The KISS Humanitarian Award is a prestigious annual international award conferred by the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar, India, conceptualized and the brainchild of visionary humanitarian and educationist Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS. The award was initiated in 2008 to recognize and felicitate individuals for their exemplary and distinguished service to humanity across the globe.

The award ceremony for the years 2020 and 2021 has not taken place due to COVID-19. The awards will be received by legendary Indian personalities soon.

Season of fire: Turahalli forest sees its first blaze

It is said miscreants snip off fence and get into area; Tuesday's fire ate into 3 acres

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

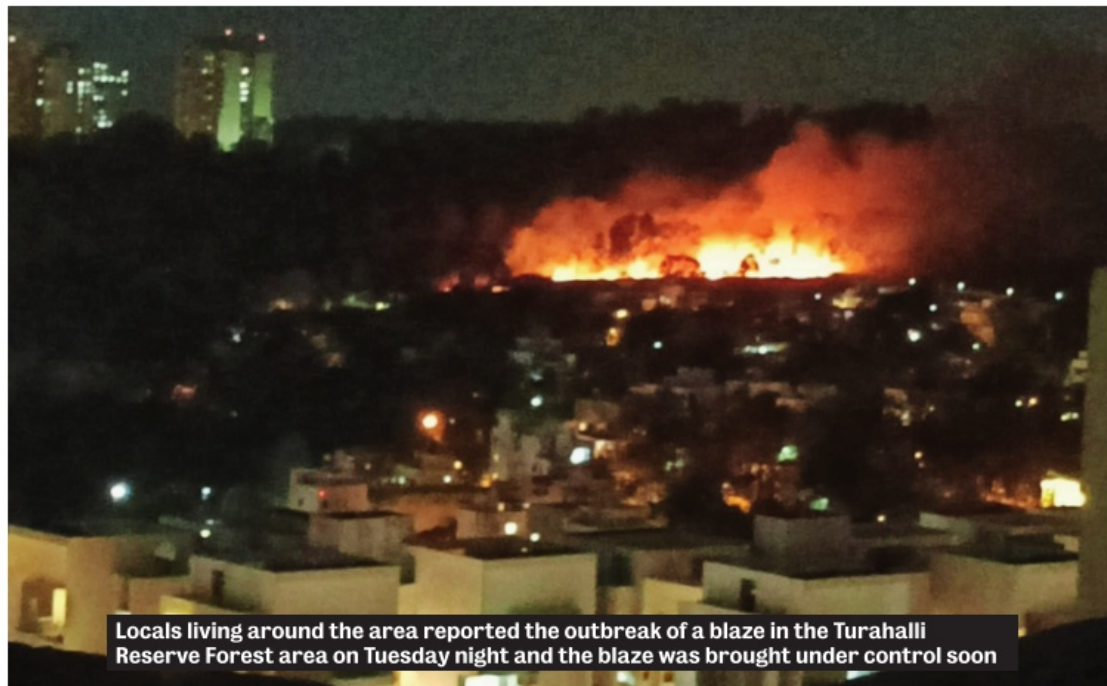
For the first time this fire season, a fire erupted in the Turahalli Reserve Forest area on Tuesday late evening. Officials from Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) say the fire has damaged a couple of acres of forest area. However, timely intervention by the department, fire brigade, and residents in the area ensured the fire was put out within a few hours.

"The fire started in the late evening on Tuesday and has gutted around three acres of the forest area. It was a linear strip of fire that was man-made. The fire was controlled within a few hours and has been put out. We have inspected the chain link fencing around the reserve and the area is completely secured," said N Ravindra Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forest (Bengaluru Urban), KFD.

Locals say while the forest department is putting its best foot forward in managing fire incidents at the reserve, miscreants have been breaking the fence frequently and setting up fires leading to destruction of precious flora and fauna.

They say this is an opportunity for the forest department to install technology with a smarter and faster response system for unauthorised intrusions.

"I have been living in an apartment complex close to the reserve since 2013. Although the forest department tries its best to keep the reserve forest's fencing intact, it gets difficult as it is a large expanse



Locals living around the area reported the outbreak of a blaze in the Turahalli Reserve Forest area on Tuesday night and the blaze was brought under control soon

The fire was controlled within a few hours. We have inspected the chain link fencing around the reserve

— N Ravindra Kumar, KFD

of land. Since the forest path has a chain link fence, it is easy for miscreants to cut it open or dig underground and enter. The department should consider bringing in some technology that can alert officials as soon as there is an intrusion," said Randish, a resident of an apartment

complex in the area.

They opine such technology in place will not only ensure timely action but will also act as a deterrent.

Interestingly, the department has already come up with some hi-tech solutions to keep elephants out of farmlands and villages.

For instance, the solar smart sensor watch mechanism at Bannerghatta National Park alerts the staff once solar lines are snapped.

Karnataka tops the charts

With the onset of forest fire season, the number of fire incidents across Karnataka's forest has been on the

rise. According to the latest report by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Karnataka has recorded the highest number of forest fire alerts since November 2023. The state logged 2,839 fire alerts state using spatial information through SNPP, the highest across the country.

Over the last seven days, the state has recorded 402 fire alerts and has also logged 24 major forest fire incidents.

The highest number of large forest fire events were recorded from Andhra Pradesh (64 major fire incidents), followed by Telangana (49 major fire incidents) and Karnataka in the third spot.

Smoking trash has residents up in arms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and a cause of concern for the residents," said Sharada, another resident of Hosur Bande. Some raised concerns regarding toxicity in the air, which they said compounded after fire.

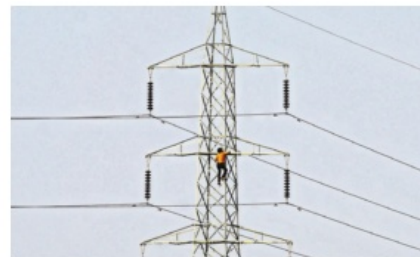
"Before the fire started, every time trucks would come and unload garbage, the area would get filled with soap bubble-like spheres. These bubbles enter our homes and also settle down in water and food items. It used to be everywhere in the atmosphere. While fire has eliminated that issue, we are worried it will be back once the fire is doused and garbage dumping activity is restored to normal. We are worried about our health," said another resident of the area.

According to the officials from BBMP's solid waste management (SWM) department, the fire was started by a miscreant and the department is trying to douse it as early as possible. "Some miscreants started the fire. We are trying to douse it. It is highly likely started by a landowner in the area, who has plans to build an illegal residential layout. He had objected when BBMP zeroed in on the quarry as a landfill. We had to lodge a police complaint for our work to begin. We suspect that the fire was started by the same landowner," said an official from the SWM department.

Power tariff cut

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) issued an order on Wednesday revising electricity rates, offering welcome news to state electricity consumers by reducing rates. Effective April 1, electricity tariff has been decreased for commercial, industrial, and domestic use. Household consumers using more than 100 units will now pay Rs 1.10 per unit, reduced from the previous rate. Similarly, commercial users will see a reduction from Rs 1.25 to Rs 1.00 per unit, while industries will experience a decrease of 50 paise per unit. Hospitals and educational institutions will benefit from a 40 paise reduction per unit, and private irrigation users will see a reduction of Rs 2 per unit. Residential apartment complexes will see a decrease of Rs 10 per kilovolt-ampere (KVA). Industrial plants will have their rates reduced by Rs 1 per unit. These revised rates will apply from A.1 onwards only for consumers using more than 100 units.

For commercial plants, rates have been reduced by 50 paise per unit. Additionally, the existing Time Based Tariff (TOD) for peak demand between 6 pm to 10 pm has been



extended to peak demand between 6 am to 9 am. The incentive rate under the Special Incentive Scheme (SIS) has been reduced from Rs 2 to Rs 1 per unit, and the scheme will continue until 2025, after which it will cease. The cross-subsidy fee has also been reduced. A single slab has been introduced for fuel consumption charges, LT, and consumers are now allowed to have electricity connections to more than one plant on their premises.

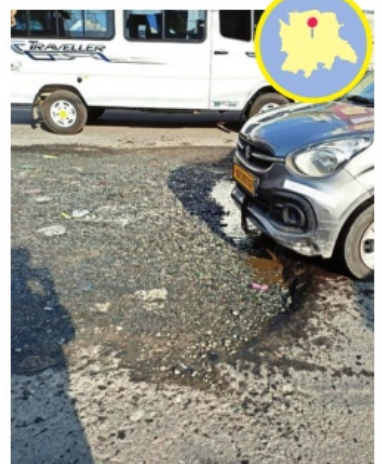
To encourage the use of electric vehicles, the electricity consumption charge for EV charging stations remains at Rs 4.50 per unit. The industrial rate for data centers has been retained to promote the establishment of data centers in the state. The discount of 50 paise per unit for micro and small industries has been discontinued due to the reduction in industry rates. — BMB

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Crater story

Hosa Road



The numerous potholes on Hosa Road, opposite Aurinko Academy, make it a dangerous commute here. Urgent repairs are required to prevent accidents.

Drain dump

Ramamurthy Nagar



Building material is dumped in the drainage near Ramamurthy Nagar Church bus stop. This is not only causing blockages, but also creating an unhygienic environment.

Go carting

Dadgowdanapalya



A hawker's cart has been stationed on the footpath near Dadgowdanapalya bus stop for two months now and is only obstructing pedestrian movement further.

Microchipping of dogs has a 15-year warranty question

BBMP official clarifies chips won't have to be replaced periodically even as animal activists want rethink on plan



Plan is to procure 1,84,671 microchips for street dogs and 80 microchip readers

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Revising the microchipping plan, BBMP has floated a tender for procuring 1,84,671 microchips for street dogs and 80 microchip readers, however, it has emerged that the civic agency has only demanded a 15-year warranty for the microchips as per the tender.

The tender was floated by BBMP's Animal Husbandry department even as activists have questioned the microchip plan itself.

The number of microchips is same as the number of dogs planned to be vaccinated with the combined five-in-one vaccine that BBMP is planning to use. While previously, the BBMP wanted to keep track of street dogs with the chips, now its rationale is that this would help it avoid double vaccination of dogs.

According to BBMP, the combined vaccine will be administered to street dogs found in various zones as well as in ABC centres so microchipping will help avoid vaccination at both stages.

The microchip will be inserted in the neck of the dog, just under the skin and a reader will be used to scan it. The details regarding the ABC surgery, ARV vaccine, and combined vaccine will be recorded in the microchip. The data collected in the microchip will also be stored in software developed by BBMP as well.

However, according to BBMP officials, the microchip readers will be used by doctors who will be deputed by the NGOs involved in the ABC-ARV mission. "Our officials will also oversee the project but the NGOs involved with the ABC-ARV work will be responsible for deputing doctors to scan the microchips. BBMP will pay a sum to the NGOs for carrying out the exercise," said a senior BBMP official from the Animal

This project does not have Animal Welfare Board of India approvals and we are asking them to get permissions to microchip the street dogs

—Arun Prasad, Bengaluru Urban District SPCA

Husbandry Department.

However, BBMP has been saying that the microchips will be just 1-2mm thick but as per the tender, it would be 11.5 mm long and 2.12 mm in diameter.

The microchip will be bio-compatible animal-implanted glass encapsulated with microelectronics-based IC with laser coding.

Syringes will be used to insert the microchip in the dogs. It also estimated that the operating temperature of these microchips would range from 20 degree C- 75 degree C. As eligibility criteria, BBMP has set that the tag /microchip manufacturing company should be registered with the International Committee on Animal Recording (ICAR). However, BBMP has only demanded that microchips should have a minimum life of 15 years under warranty. This clause has raised questions as to whether the microchips will have to be replaced after 15 years.

"These microchips won't have to be replaced and would remain in the dog's body lifelong," clarified the BBMP official.

Animal activists have been up in arms about BBMP's decision to go ahead with the microchipping plan without AWBI approval. "This project does not have AWBI approvals and we are asking them for permissions to microchip street dogs," said Arun Prasad, Bengaluru Urban District SPCA member.

Register water tankers or get ready to face music

Despite previous reluctance to take action against water tankers despite citizens' demands, BBMP has now announced a new approach. The civic agency is introducing 'self-registration' for tankers in a bid to crack down on the private tanker mafia. Tanker owners have been given a deadline from March 1 to 7 to register, with unregistered tankers facing the threat of impoundment.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said, "We will convene a meeting with tanker owners by March 1 to discuss measures to curb the pricing issue. After gathering information on water sources and prices, rates will be standardised to ensure fairness and affordability."

Girinath said of the 3,500 private tankers operating in the city, a significant number lack proper licensing. "We urge all tanker owners to complete self-registration by March 7 to avoid penalties. Unregistered tankers will be confiscated, and those charging inflated prices will face sanctions. Tankers will be paid a fixed rent for their services," he said.

To address immediate water scarcity concerns, the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner has allocated 200 tankers to BWSSB. These will be deployed to supply water to 110 villages and BBMP areas. Additionally, water tanks will be installed in water-deficient areas, with 68 BWSSB tankers tasked with providing water to residents. Furthermore, BBMP and BWSSB have appointed Assistant Engineers to oversee water supply in 110 villages, with their contact details to be made public for easy access.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V outlined plans for the completion of the Cauvery 5th phase project by April, ensuring water availability from May onwards. Manohar also stressed on the importance of exploring technical solutions such as borewell re-drilling in areas with low water levels. Additionally, efforts will be made to reduce industrial water usage in favour of domestic consumption, promoting the use of treated wastewater by industries. Plans to fill more lakes with treated wastewater will be discussed in board meetings, ensuring sustainable water management practices. —BMB

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Anganwadi workers not in mood for more on their plate

While govt is yet to listen to their demands, extra task of conducting survey to get feedback on guarantee schemes leaves workers disappointed

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The State Government's decision to engage anganwadi workers for conducting a massive survey to get feedback on the implementation of its five guarantee schemes is set to hit a roadblock. The state government is keen on appointing 1.2 lakh ASHA and anganwadi workers as guarantee volunteers to conduct the survey on the implementation of five guarantee schemes.

However, around 20,000 anganwadi teachers and assistants affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) are not inclined to join as guarantee volunteers as the government failed to meet their demands.

"It is not fair to direct anganwadi teachers and workers to conduct the survey on the government's guarantee schemes as they are already overburdened with so many responsibilities. The government did not respond on the implementation of its sixth guarantee aimed at increasing wages for anganwadi teachers and workers," said M Jayamma, general secretary, Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Karyakartheyaru Mathu Sahayakiyara Federation.

According to the state govern-

It is not fair of the government officials to ask us to conduct the survey after working hours because it is our time meant for our families

—Girija YD, anganwadi teacher



A recent protest by anganwadi workers at Freedom Park

ment's plan, each of the guarantee workers has to visit 100 to 120 houses to conduct the survey on the implementation of the government's five guarantee schemes. The government would pay Rs 1,000 to each of the guarantee volunteers for conducting the survey.

Phone problems

Most of the anganwadi teachers are not happy with the quality of mobile phones provided to them. "The government pays Rs 1,000 towards the recharge of mobile phones given to us. This amount is for one year. It costs Rs 770 for me to recharge my mobile phone for three months. What should I do to recharge my phone for the remain-

ing nine months?" asks Mumtaj Begum Kandagal, an anganwadi teacher from Koppal.

She said that she has been paid Rs 11,500 while the assistant is being paid Rs 6,750 per month. "I have been working as an anganwadi teacher for 28 years. We have been demanding that the government increase the wages but our pleas have been in vain. I am not interested in conducting the survey," she said.

Stating that anganwadi teachers are overburdened with a variety of surveys, Girija YD, president of Bangalore District AITUC, who works as an anganwadi teacher at Kengeri, said that she can't conduct the survey during the work

hours as she has to look after children at the anganwadi centre. "It is not fair of the government officials to ask us to conduct the survey after working hours because it is our time meant for our families," said Girija.

S Varalakshmi, CITU Karnataka State president said that she wants to give some more time to the state government to implement the sixth guarantee meant for the welfare of anganwadi teachers and workers. "The authorities concerned have taken measures to address the issue of defunct mobile phones. I expect the government to address the other issues of anganwadi teachers and workers," said Varalakshmi.

Panel to focus on students' demands

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Hundreds of students from multiple forestry science colleges in the state who had gathered at Freedom Park for the last three days are likely to temporarily call off their protest on Thursday. This comes after Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre met the agitating students on Wednesday and urged them to withdraw the protest.

While talking to the students at Freedom Park, the Minister assured them that an expert committee would be formed to focus on their demands and submit a report for further action to be taken.

He added that students with a background in forestry sciences will have more representation in forest department recruitment.

Students from forestry science campuses in Iruvaki, Ponnampet, and Sirsi had gathered at Freedom Park for the last three days. They were demanding to make a degree in forestry science be the minimum qualification for posts of Assistant Conservator of Forest, Range Forest Officer, and Deputy Range Forest Officer in the Karnataka Forest Department.

"The Minister has assured that the recruitment process for the posts of DRFOs will maintain the status quo, which is 50% through promotions and 50% through recruitment. For RFO and ACF posts, a decision will be taken after the special committee being formed will produce its report," said a representative of the students.

After listening to their demands, Khandre said that students can meet and represent to the committee while it is in the process of framing its recommendations. After the committee's report, forestry science students will be called again for discussion.

"Students have submitted their memorandum and are likely to call off the agitation on Thursday morning and return to their respective campuses," said the representative.

Footpath turns shady drinking spot, complaints go unheard

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The footpath in the Bikasipura area of Doddakallasandra has become unusable due to an overgrowth of plants and creepers, making it inaccessible to pedestrians. Furthermore, the space is being used by some individuals as a drinking area, causing a sense of insecurity among women and discouraging them from using this path.

Despite numerous complaints filed through the BBMP's Sahaaya app, the authorities concerned are yet to address the issue or take any corrective measures. Residents of the area say it is disheartening that these complaints have been consistently closed

without any resolution, leaving the concerns unattended.

A resident of Narayana Nagar, Doddakallasandra, Asha Rathna, said, "The condition of this pathway has been like this for a very long time, posing safety concerns, especially for women. The road also leads to two private hospitals in the area. It's been close to a month since the complaint was raised but no action has been taken so far."

Highlighting the lack of accountability within BBMP, Poongothai Paramasivam, Governing Council Member & Zonal Leader - BNP, Bangalore South, said they have informed ward officials and health inspectors on multiple occasions, yet no action has been taken. "It is appalling that complaints are being closed arbitrarily, leaving citizens in unsafe



Overgrowth of plants at footpath in Bikasipura has made it inaccessible

conditions. At a time when Bengaluru aims to enhance its reputation through Brand Bengaluru, the neglect of basic amenities like footpaths raises fundamental questions about the

city's commitment to safety."

Vishnu Reddy, Zonal President - BNP Mahadevapura, pointed to the shortcomings of the Sahaaya app. "The Sahaaya app was designed to

facilitate communication between citizens and officials, but it has fallen short of its intended purpose. Despite attempts by BBMP to address its deficiencies, the app remains ineffective. It's not a lack of technological capabilities hindering the complaint resolution process; rather, it's the apathetic attitude of the BBMP administration that refuses to leverage available resources for effective city management. There are several footpaths in the city which are either encroached, broken and poorly maintained by the BBMP and are crying for help."

The residents said that the unresolved complaints and inefficiencies plaguing the app underscore the urgent need for BBMP to prioritise citizen concerns and streamline its response mechanisms to ensure a safer and more livable Bengaluru.

Let guidance value not be sole guiding light

Aligning property tax with guidance value not good idea; should BBMP take such decisions without consultations?: Citizens

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The proposed decision to align property tax with the guidance value might not adequately account for variations in condition of the property, say city's home owners. Some properties may have high guidance value but require significant maintenance or need of infrastructure improvements, they say.

Many apartment owners associations and activists have raised objections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP's) plan to fix the property tax as per the guidance value.

According to Namma Bengaluru Foundation, the property owners may face increased tax burdens, particularly if the guidance values are higher than the current property assessments. It said that this sudden change could be financially burdensome for residents, especially those on fixed incomes.

It is said that the guidance value may not consistently represent the current market dynamics accurately. "There is a need for a more systematic and holistic approach to ascertain how this valuation is determined. Depending solely on guidance value may introduce discrepancies and



Decision on property tax must involve stakeholders, citizens say

inequalities in property tax calculations," Namma Bengaluru Foundation said in a letter to BBMP Chief Commissioner.

The letter stated that the property taxes should consider various factors such as amenities, accessibility, and local services. "Sole focus on guidance value might oversimplify the calculation process. The BBMP lacks the authority to determine the property tax rate, payment procedures, and recipients. The ongoing process which has been initiated by the BBMP is ineffective, due to the absence of a council general meeting resolution," it stated, adding that no resolution

has been passed since the previous council's term concluded in September 2020, and the BBMP Act-2020 came into effect on December 21, 2020.

It suggested, if the change is deemed necessary, the new property tax should be implemented gradually and in phases which would allow property owners to adjust to the new tax structure.

Recommending that a system be put in place for regular reviews based on actual property conditions and market dynamics, it stated that this ensures that the property tax calculation remains fair and reflective of the

'Taxed without basic facilities'

Residents of Kasavanahalli too have raised objections and have written to the senior officials in BBMP on the proposed increase in property tax basis guidance value.

The Bellandur Development forum with a federation of over 60+ Resident Welfare Associations stated that by default, many outer areas like Bellandur already are suffering without basic civic amenities of roads, solid waste management services, water or sanitation. "Without any accountability, BBMP has been serving below satisfaction for the needs of residents. This is in spite of Bellandur, ward 150 being top contributors of property tax. We don't even get allocation basis size is ward, population and the current state of infrastructure," they noted. They added that the guid-

ance value fixed/revised by the Government almost every year predominantly meant to garner registration stamp duty charges and prevent black money circulation.

The members also added that in addition to the increase in tax due to revision in guidance value, BBMP is also proposing a 5% increase in the property tax every year which is very unjust. A resident of Kasavanahalli said, "BBMP put roads in our layout, 28 years after the layout was formed. Footpaths were never laid. We pooled in and paid for a footpath on the main road. Till date even though water and sewer connections have been taken, we don't have a working sewer line... What quality of life are we getting for the property tax we are paying?" -Iffath Fathima

current situation.

The other suggestion is conducting public consultations to gather input from property owners, residents, and other stakeholders. Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said that a comprehensive assessment is crucial with engaging the citizens. "While guidance value is important, they should not

overshadow other essential factors like public amenities, accessibility, and local services," said Vinod Jacob.

R Rajagopalan, convener of Bengaluru Residents' Welfare Association, emphasised on the need to have held public consultations before the circular was issued. "They should have invited RWAs or social organisations for consultations.

Implement National Policy for Rare Diseases now

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With the rare disease day celebrated on the last day of February, experts have called for implementation of the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), rare diseases typically affect fewer than 1 in 1,000 individuals, impacting around 70 million people in India with 450 rare diseases, including the debilitating Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a rare genetic condition characterised by the progressive loss of motor neurons, leading to severe muscle weakness and potentially life-threatening complications.

Karnataka stands out as a model State for rare disease treatment, initiating efforts in 2016 even before a policy was in place. The State has enrolled over 100 patients for treatment at the Centre for Human Genetics, spending 60 crore on 50 patients. Despite the introduction of the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) in 2021, specific challenges persist, especially for conditions like SMA.

The NPRD aims to reduce the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases through awareness campaigns, screenings, and counselling programs. The central government has established 11 Centers of Excellence (CoE) across the country to assist with rare diseases.

Dr Ann Agnes Mathew, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist and Neuromuscular Specialist at Synapse Neuro Centre and Child Development Centre, Bengaluru stressed on the need for a comprehensive approach to managing rare diseases, particularly SMA Type 1. "SMA like most rare diseases requires that multiple specialists work together as a team with the child and family at the center of this care. This helps in preempting and proactively dealing with expected complications such as chest infections, which is the most common cause that leads to mortality. We do know the natural history of the disease in affected children with various degrees of severity of SMA, and hence specialist and MDT input can help prevent these infections, contractures, scoliosis, fractures etc. by noting and dealing with them early on. Hence collaboration among specialists taking care of these children is crucial."

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When the children cry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on her own, probably answered with such details to raise the credibility of the service," said Sharma.

Stating that the number of cases heard in the courts and the judgments or directions given information would be very good, he said the data also could have been year-wise to give a clear picture about the range of calls that have been received on 1098

and 112 lines.

"The service was shifted from NGOs to the government on September 1, 2023. A break-up of the number of cases received after that period probably will give a real picture," he said.

Sharma further stated that employees operating the ERSS are outsourced staffers. "It will be better if the authorities ensure proper training for them," he said.



Expressing concern over the increase in number of distress calls received by the ERSS, Nagasimha G Rao, director of Child Rights Trust, said the government must increase the budget for the protection of children if the child line receives more than 30,000 calls per year.

"The data provided by the women and child development minister is an eye-opener. Proper implementation of child-related laws will bring down child rights violations," he said.

Lakshapathi of Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) said volunteers of APSA have attended distress calls and worked for the rehabilitation of orphan children in association with the government.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mayank Dwivedi, S/O S.K Dwivedi R/O Sandeep Vihar, Kannamangala, Bangalore 560067 changed the name of my minor son from Aarav Dwivedi birth certificate Reg No. 041/800196/2018/308535 to Shivank Dwivedi for all future purposes.

I, Byadarahalli Krishnegowda Usha w/o N R Yogananda R/o 103 Maharaja Palace Apts Kodi-chikkanahalli B G Rd B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Byadarahalli Krishnegowda Usha Yogananda vide Affidavit Dt: 21/02/24 before notary Mohammed Hussain B'luru.

I TULSI BHIMANI, at Flat No. 221, Block A4, SLS Splendor Apartments, Devarabisanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560103, have changed my name to BHIMANI TULSI NILESHBHAI for all future purposes.

I, FAHMIDA KHATOON, R/a Malur Taluk, Huladenahalli Post, Huladenahalli-563137, I have changed my name to, FAHAMIDA KHATUN, Vide affidavit, dated 03/02/2024 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I Uday Kumar, k S/O, Kuppalah, k R/o #39, 12th Cross Hanumagiri Nagar Chikkallasaandra Bangalore South Subramanyapura Bangalore Karnataka 560061 have changed my name to Udaya Kumar, k.

I, MUQTHAIR KHAN RAHIM KHAN, R/a#6, E No.1st Street, Shivaji Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-51, I have changed my name to, MUQTHAIR KHAN, Vide affidavit, dated 26/02/2024 Sworn before Notary: Prakasha, C, Bangalore

I, Suraj Chandwani S/o, Jaipal Sachanand Chandwani R/o 3108, Tower 3, Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefield, Bangalore, 560048 have changed my name to Suraj Jaipalchandwani for all purposes.

I, Manikandan S R/o No: A3-502, Provident Harmony Apt, Chokkanahalli Road, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, Pin: 560064, have changed my minor son's name from Shaarav Roshan to Shaarav Roshan M.

I Anwesha W/o Padma Prasad Hegde R/o Shyamala Lv-the Address, No 20/3, Ali Akker Rd, Vasanthanagar, B'luru 560001 have changed my name to Anwesha P P Hegde for all purposes.

I, Maimoonnissa Saleem residing at No. M-73, 5th Cross BM Layout Vankateshpuram Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to Maimoonnissa vide affidavit dated 12.12.2023 sworn before Notary Leela Bangalore

I Suman Sundaresha Rao S/O, Sundaresha Haliyur Rangarao R/o 417-418, 4th Main, 4th Stage, 5th Cross, Bemb Layout, Rr Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Suman Rao.

I, Prakash Chandra Ganna R/o No-15/1, 2nd Cross, 4th Main Road, Gidadakonenahalli, Byregowda Layout, Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to Prakash Kumar

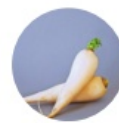
I Jincymol Joseph D/o Joseph R/o Flat 314, Aryan Pebble Bay, Anam Enclave, Thanisandra, B'lure have changed my name to Jincymol for all purposes

I, Mahjabeen Lateef W/o Lateef Sharief R/o #14/A 14th B Cross Firm Hill Garden Apts, HSR Layat 560102 have changed my name to Mah Jabeen

LOST & FOUND

I, MEGHANA HEGDE D/o. AMRITHA NAGARAJ HEGDE, Residing @ 101, Chamundi Garnet, 15th Mn, 17th Cr, JP Nagar 5th Ph, Bangalore -78, Have lost my SSLC Marks Card ID: 7572594, Centre: 1222593, Index: 1222593/037, passing - 2021-22, issuer - ICSE, New Delhi, vide affidavit dated 27/02/2024 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Lathif Shariff K A S/o Abdul Khader R/o #14/A 14th B Cross Firm Hill Garden Apts HSR Layat 560102 have changed my name to Lathif Shareef K A



Maps and everyday life are now so intertwined for most people that it's difficult to imagine a world without them.

Most of us use at least one map every day. Some of us use many, especially now they have become one of the dominant interfaces of our digital society, alongside the scrolling screen, camera view and search engine.

We are also being mapped – subtly or overtly – through the GPS and location data traces we leave, the journeys we make, and the kinds of activities that we get up to as we go about our daily business.

Then there are the other, more analogue ways that maps are part of our lives: childhood pirate treasure maps and atlases that reveal a world ripe for adventure; maps on railway platforms or bike docking stations; and maps on the back of flyers posted through the door.

Maps also have other, less practical uses too. They are proudly hung in our homes and offices, used to decorate things like coffee mugs and mouse pads, and even create fashion.

Cartography has become one of the most successful technologies we have developed for understanding the world around us. At the same time, maps have become important cultural and artistic objects that we value greatly. They can be both useful and pragmatic, beautiful and poetic, political and powerful, meaningful as well as mundane.

Shaping social and cultural life

Over the last ten years, culminating in my book *All Mapped Out*, my work has led me to question what maps mean for people as they go about their daily lives, and in turn how maps shape their experiences.

Maps have received a lot of attention from researchers and industry over the years, mostly with the aim of producing the most accurate and usable map for a given purpose, or by studying how powerful interests are reflected on maps.

Professional cartographers, once working with pencil and paper and now with advanced geospatial technologies, aim to produce ever-more detailed maps for ever-more uses, while the sub-field of critical cartography has revealed that what ends up on a map reflects the world views of their makers.

But it is only relatively recently that work has begun to explore what they do to shape social and cultural life.

Maps and what we do with them cannot be defined universally. Ideals and ideas about maps frequently clash with the reality of how and why maps are used. By bringing together my own research studying map users in London, and the work of others who have researched mapping practices around the world, I want to show how uses of maps are shaped by different cultures, communities, contexts and technology.

BACK ON THE MAP

Maps shape our lives by showing us not just where we are, but who we are



One way of exploring this is by looking at the impact that GPS technology has had on mapping our movements. Today, millions of people use this technology to reveal their exercise routines, which in turn supports an industry worth billions.

But self-tracking is not just about maps and measurement. These maps become meaningful as objects inscribed with personal cartography. It feels good to see where we have been; it's a sign that we have achieved something.

Some people have taken this further by using fitness-tracking devices as tools for artworks, wielding the GPS functions to inscribe pictures and words on the map through their movement across the land. GPS art, as it has come to be known, is growing in popularity as people realise self-tracking's potential outside purely mapping exercise for personal goals.

It began long before the proliferation of the smartphone and fitness-tracking apps, when in 2000 the artist Jeremy Wood set to work recording and mapping his movements using a handheld GPS device. This included tracing

his daily travel and even recording his lawn-mowing routes through the seasons. This reveals how a popular mapping technology – GPS – has many impacts beyond those it was intended for.

Mapping Contexts

In my work there are several overlapping themes that chart how maps have become tied to culture and society. I want to do more than identify maps that have changed the world, or lay out the history of maps and society.

Instead, I want to show that all maps have the potential to change the world and shape society. It's just a matter of where you look and whose world you are interested in.

With my book I hope to inspire another look at maps, first through the lens of navigation, perhaps the activity mostly strongly associated with maps, then through movement and how maps shape our perception of it.

I also look at the power and politics of maps that reveal whose interests are served by particular maps, and investigate the cultures of map-making today. With easy-

to-use digital mapping tools now available online, alongside the proliferation of advanced mapping technologies now used by professionals, the power of map-making and the cultures that develop around maps are more diverse than ever.

That maps and map-makers are always changing makes studying what we do with maps an exciting area for development. It means that our understanding of maps must evolve with how they continue to shape society.

So it's high time for a rethink. There remains a prevailing view that maps are neutral and objective, once paper and now digital, accurate and functional, despite the now well-used line that maps are arguments made about the world. Why is this? And how do we move beyond it?

My hope is to create a conversation – one that so far is only being had in a small corner of map studies – encouraging people to think beyond the assumptions society has about maps and how we use them.

(By Mike Duggan, King's College London, *The Conversation*)



All you need to know about...

Perils of poor sleep

Get adequate sleep

Getting adequate sleep is critical for our bodies to maintain basic health processes, and it is especially necessary for teenage and young adult development.

Muscle dysmorphia link

A recent study discovered a link between poor sleep and indications of muscle dysmorphia, a growing trend among young people. The study, published in the journal *Sleep Health*, included over 900 adolescents and young adults. Over two weeks, participants who reported having more muscle dysmorphia symptoms reported getting fewer hours of sleep and having a harder time falling or staying asleep.

Negative impact on mental health

"Poor sleep can have significant negative impacts for adolescents and young adults, including increased negative mental health symptoms," said lead author Kyle T Ganson, PhD, MSW, assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Social impairment

"Poor sleep among those who experience muscle dysmorphia symptoms is concerning as it may exacerbate the functional and social impairment these individuals commonly report, as well as increase suicidal thoughts and behaviours."

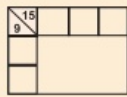
Dietary supplement

"Individuals experiencing symptoms of muscle dysmorphia may be more likely to use dietary supplements that are marketed for improving workouts, increasing muscle mass, and accelerating muscle recovery," said Ganson. "These products tend to have high levels of caffeine or other stimulants, which may impact sleep. Anabolic-androgenic steroids that are commonly used among people with muscle dysmorphia, can also negatively impact sleep."

—ANI

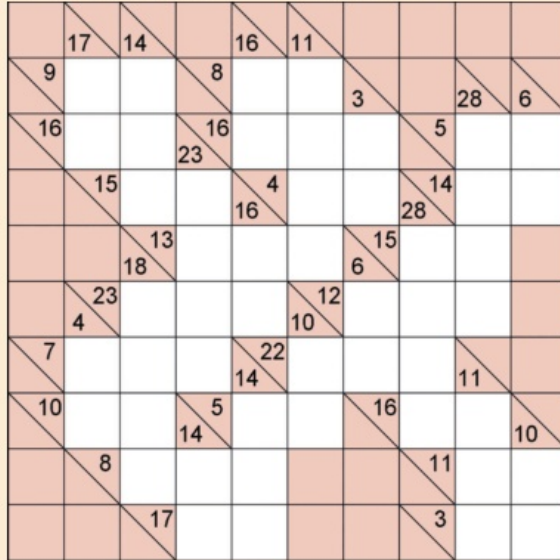
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

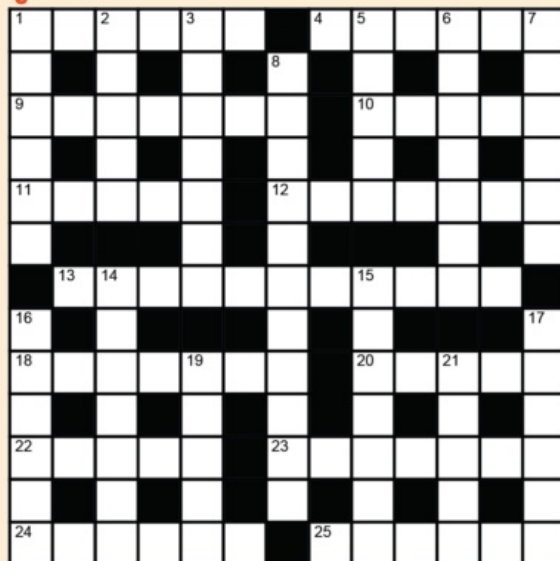


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Unemotional sorts (6)
- 4 Bowls with illegal action (6)
- 9 Investigate or examine (3,4)
- 10 Hospital employee (5)
- 11 Go in (5)
- 12 City in Madhya Pradesh (7)
- 13 C in our IPL team RCB (11)
- 18 Becomes angry or inflamed, in a way (7)
- 20 Ancient Peruvians (5)
- 22 Snap (5)
- 23 Receding or ebbing (7)
- 24 Method (6)
- 25 Measuring devices (6)

DOWN

- 1 Nun (6)
- 2 Open to view (5)
- 3 Run, manage or direct (7)
- 5 Reddish dye (5)
- 6 Porter or coolie, ferrier (7)
- 7 Uses profanity? (6)
- 8 Parliamentarian of the U.S.? (11)
- 14 Extremely ugly (7)
- 15 Facial contortion (7)
- 16 Fumbles, feels for (6)
- 17 Customs or routine practice or habits (6)
- 19 French school (5)
- 21 Serious offence (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS H
 AHO BG OWN AHO, KLN H MWZJ
 NW NVWGF VF IWFG OWN
 TOWM.



Linemaro

You are WEIRD:
 Wonderful,
 Exciting, Interesting,
 Real and Different



Mindchow

Patriot: The person who
 can holler the loudest
 without knowing what
 the hollering is about



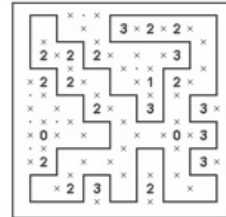
Joke of the day

People say that money
 is not the key to
 happiness, but I always
 figured if you have
 enough money, you can
 have a key made

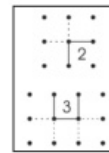
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

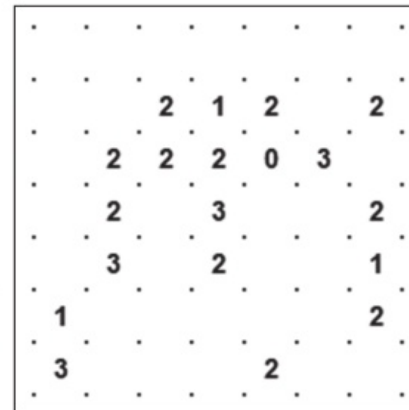


(Fig B)
 Not Allowed

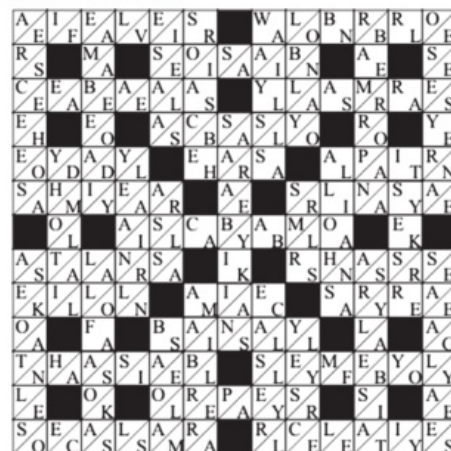
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



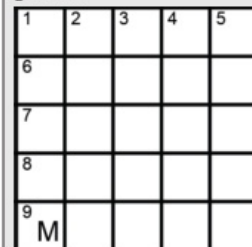
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

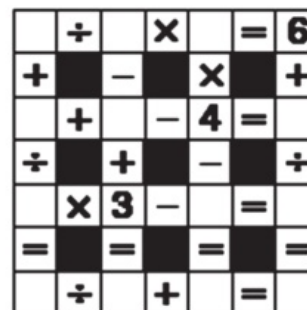
- 1 Ratel; 6 Embay;
- 7 Booby; 8 Toons;
- 9 Sow me

DOWN

- 1 By SAM; 2 No lee;
- 3 Boo at; 4 We mob;
- 5 Tyros

Mensapuzzle

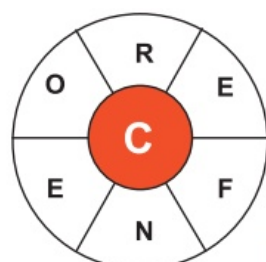
Insert numbers into the remaining blank squares so that the sums in each line and column are correct. All numbers to be inserted are less than 10.



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ = 9

2 3 3 5

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ = 18

3 6 8 8

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ = 8

1 2 9 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Water level is lower. 2. Cup is missing. 3. Ear is different. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Man is wearing a jacket. 6. Bow tie is missing.

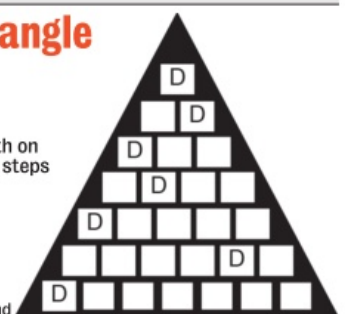
Riddler

Which three letter word completes the following longer words: f-ish, mo-ing, upt-, t-ip?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Fourth letter
- 2 Overdose, abbr.
- 3 Buck's mate
- 4 Keats offerings
- 5 Mollycoddles, with on
- 6 Walked with long steps
- 7 Demolish

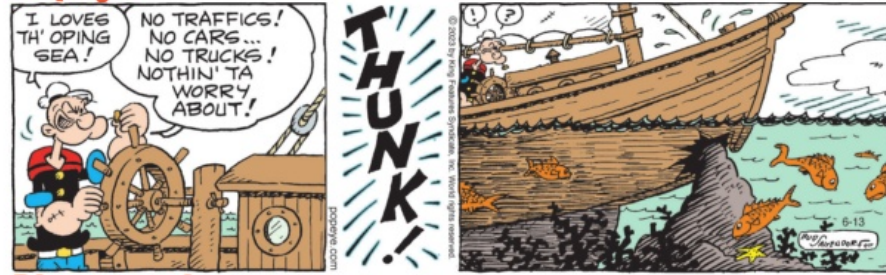
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may be a victim of mood swings. You may feel dull and your health is not ok. This affects your day-to-day routine. You are advised to avoid driving fast and adventure tours. Today you may also spend on worthless things that may affect your financial health.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may be spiritual. You may help needy people around you. You also plan to donate some amount to charity or a religious place. Your good karma may help you get success in your difficult projects. You may feel some divine power around you that may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in depth.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you as it may make you disappointed. Today you may indulge in self-exploration and self-analysis, which may allow filtering yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confidence and be able to prepare to accept challenges.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today you may have detachment to responsibilities you have been given. You also spend more in buying worthless items, which may increase negativity in the house or office. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals otherwise you may be a victim of conspiracy. It is advised that you read documents carefully before putting your signature.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you may feel dull and you may be a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in a position to trust anyone. It is advised that you meditate or chant some prayer, which may help you come out from this difficult situation. With the help of an elder's blessings by around late evening, you may come out from this messy situation.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may plan for a change in place, but it is advised that you postpone any decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investment in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may gain control over a messy situation.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today blessings from elders may make you happy. Your investments may give you profits. Losses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest in the kid's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you and you may feel harmony in domestic life. You may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you in taking some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may expect some short business trips. You may also expect to get some rewards for your success in your domain. People's respect for you may be increased. You may hear some good news from siblings. Job seekers, who are seeking management jobs, may get success. Singles are likely to get engaged.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today you are blessed by elders. Your patience becomes very good and your focus towards your work may be very good. Parents' health is now good. You are likely to spend more time with elders. You may also meet some influential person, who may help you on the professional front. You may also enjoy romantic moments which may increase harmony in domestic life.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good on the job. You may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to get suitable jobs in their domain. Love birds may enjoy going on a date.

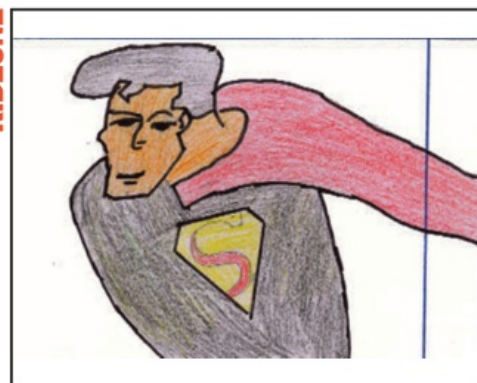


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today is a good day. You are blessed by Jupiter and your wisdom may help you to come out from difficult situations. You may also help needy people. You may also give your opinion to your family or friends, which may increase your prestige among them. You may have some differences of opinions with your spouse, which may affect your domestic life.



KIDZONE



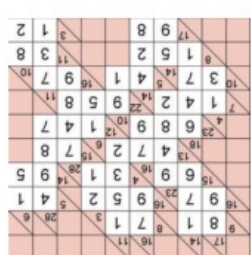
S Sathvik, 11 Years, New Cambridge English School



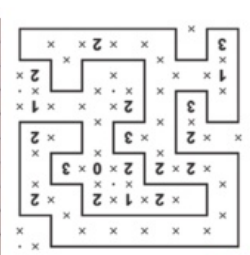
S Tanmayi, 8 Years, New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror; No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

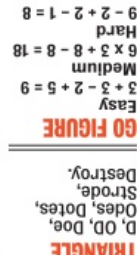
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



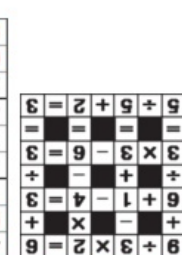
LOOP



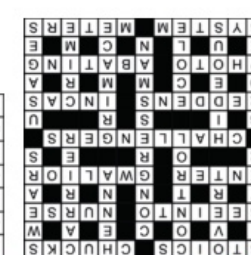
ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

UNFAIR TACTICS

Shriya Saran opens up about challenges women actors face

In a candid revelation, actress Shriya Saran shared her experiences of being unfairly judged and facing assumptions about female actors in the film industry. The actress, who has been part of the entertainment scene since her debut in 2001, expressed that the judgmental stares persist even today, despite being married and a mother.

Talking to Indian Express, Shriya acknowledged the constant scrutiny, stating that people often assume female actors to be stereotypes she has encountered throughout her career.

She emphasised that, although her husband Andrei reassures her that nobody thinks that way, she can feel the judgmental stares. Shriya, however, asserted that such judgements have never affected her, as she operates from a space of not caring about others' opinions.

The actress emphasised her commitment to doing what she wants, wearing what she likes, and not letting societal perceptions dictate her choices. The actress's candid revelations shed light on the challenges and stereotypes faced by women in the entertainment world, even as they navigate personal milestones like marriage and motherhood.

Meanwhile, Shriya Saran is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming series 'Showtime,' which promises to provide a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes dynamics of the film industry, exploring themes of lies, deceit, power, and stardom.

—ETimes

Judgements don't affect me as I work from a space of not caring about opinions



Success story

Music director Veer Samarth is flying high on the success of his latest movie Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe.

Veer Samarth is happy with the feedback he has received. He began his career as a music director with the movie Shivamani that was released in 2009. "It brought me name and fame as a music director. My second movie was Gandhi Smiles and the third one was Karanji. Till date, I have scored music for 45 Kannada movies, and Hindi movie Shakeela directed by Indrajit Lankesh," says Veer Samarth.

He said director Suni of Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe was very happy with work ethic. "I thank Suni for his kind words about me. I felt very happy when Suni told me that I am known for punctuality and hard work. Apart from scoring music, I also have sung four songs of Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe. Music lovers have appreciated the songs," he said.



Another wedding in the offing?

Following Rakul Preet Singh's recent wedding, another Bollywood wedding extravaganza is on the horizon. Taapsee Pannu, known for her roles in films like "Dunki," is poised to tie the knot with her long-time partner, badminton player Mathias Boe, in March. The picturesque city of Udaipur has been chosen as the setting for this grand occasion. The ceremony it is said will be an intimate affair, primarily attended by close family members, with no prominent figures anticipated to be present.



Embracing their cultural diversity, the wedding is expected to incorporate rituals from both Sikhism and Christianity, symbolizing their shared love and heritage.

Taapsee Pannu and Mathias Boe have been together for over a decade. The couple has not made any official announcement yet about the wedding..

—ETimes

Historical drama

The muhurat function of the much-awaited big-budget movie Halagali was held at Lalitha Mahal in Mysuru last Sunday. The movie is being made in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi. Around 500 artistes including 200 Russian artistes participated in the shooting.

According to sources close to director Sukesh Nayak, the movie is based on a historical event that took place during the British era. Halagali will be Nayak's second Kannada movie. Prior to this, he handled the megaphone for Kannada movie Krishna Tulasi in 2018.

The sources said the movie is about the residents of Halagali, a village in Bagalkot, who fought against the British in 1857. The sources said that the majority of the residents of Halagali are hunters and warriors who launched a guerrilla war against the British.

Darling Krishna known for family-oriented movies is playing the lead in the movie. Krishna is expected to appear in a different avatar with a bow and arrow in this movie. It is said that Krishna is not accepting other offers as he is busy with preparations for Halagali.



Screamed on set



Actress Rebecca Ferguson, who is known for her work in 'Mission Impossible' films and 'Dune', shared that she fled a set in tears after her co-actor "screamed at" her.

The 40-year-old actress, who started her career as a teen in a Swedish soap opera, opened up about her trauma over the event on a new podcast, reports 'Female First UK'.

Rebecca said the incident happened because of an "absolute idiot" actor and she'll never act alongside again.

She said during an appearance on the 'Reign with Josh Smith' show, "I remember there was a moment and this human being was being so insecure and angry because this person couldn't get the scenes out."

Rebecca further mentioned, "I think I was so vulnerable and uncomfortable that I got screamed at."

—IANS

Ethnic beauty

Actress Raashii Khanna on Wednesday gave some major ethnic fashion goals, oozing elegance in an olive green ensemble.

The actress, who will be soon seen in the action thriller 'Yodha' alongside Sidharth Malhotra, took to Instagram, where she enjoys 10.8 million followers, and shared a series of pictures from the film's promotion in Hyderabad.

The pictures featured Raashii wearing a mirrored sleeveless olive green coloured blouse, and a green lehenga with a golden border. The lehenga had birds, trees, and some animals imprinted on it. She completed the look with a matching dupatta.

For the makeup, Raashii opted for nude brown lips, kohl rimmed eyes, thick brows, and a black bindi. Her hair is tied in a low bun. She sported silver accessories -- a choker necklace, bangles and earrings.

Raashii, who made her acting debut in 'Madras Cafe', captioned the post: "#yodha in Hyderabad". —IANS

